

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07

SCI-06 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02 AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00 L-03

PA-04 PRS-01 DRC-01 /164 W

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R 291030Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1723

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

DEA HQS WASHDC

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ANKARA FOR BRIGGS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, IN

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: INDIAN OPIUM PRODUCTION AND EXPORT
AVAILABILITY

REF: A. STATE 109779 B. NEW DELHI 6443

1. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY MALLINCKRODT REPRESENTATIVE GERFEN TO THE DEPARTMENT ON INDIAN OPIUM AVAILABILITY DOES NOT DIFFER SUBSTANTIALLY FROM GOI ESTIMATES (REF B). THE INDIANS NOW BELIEVE THAT PRODUCTION WILL ONLY BE 1,000 TONS, OPIUM EXPORTS THIS YEAR WILL REMAIN ABOUT THE SAME AS IN 1973, AND POPPY CULTIVATION ACREAGE WILL NOT BE INCREASED IN 1975.

2. GERFEN INFORMED THE EMBASSY RECENTLY THAT MALLINCKRODT'S
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OPIUM ALLOCATION WILL PROBABLY BE RAISED BY EIGHT TONS IN 1974,

WHICH INDICATES THAT AMERICAN FIRMS WILL GET MORE THAN THEIR PREVIOUS SHARE OF OPIUM. EVEN IF ALLOCATIONS TO US FIRMS ARE NOT INCREASED THIS YEAR, US PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES WILL AT LEAST MAINTAIN THEIR SUPPLY POSITION AGAINST COMPETITORS. DESPITE REPORTED ATTEMPTS BY POLAND AND OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO OBTAIN INCREASED ALLOCATIONS OF OPIUM FOR RE-EXPORT PURPOSES, THE GOI HAS INFORMED US THAT THE EAST EUROPEANS WOULD BE GIVEN SMALLER AMOUNTS THIS YEAR THAN LAST. (WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE YUGOSLAV SITUATION).

3. THE AMOUNT OF INDIAN RAW OPIUM AVAILABLE FOR EXPORT WILL BE REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY IN 1975, WHEN THE CODEINE PLANT AT NEEMUCH COMES ON STREAM. SINCE THE INCREASE IN THE EXPORT PRICE OF RAW OPIUM IN THE LAST TWO YEARS HAS BARELY KEPT PACE WITH INTERNAL INDIAN INFLATION, A SWITCH TOWARD EXPORTING CODEINE SHOULD PROVIDE THE INDIANS WITH SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER PROFITS AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, OPIUM, EXPORTS, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE07070
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740135-0028
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740511/aaaaajad.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 109779 B. NEW DELHI 6443
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS: INDIAN OPIUM PRODUCTION AND EXPORT AVAILABILITY
TAGS: SNAR, IN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005